

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 SSM-03 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /092 W
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R 141547Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 637
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EF UR US
SUBJECT: AHRAH LECTURES MOSCOW

1. AHRAH CHIEF EDITOR ALI HAMDI GAMAL, CLEARLY WITH SADAT AS HIS MUSE, DRAGGED USSR THROUGH RHETORICAL THICKETS IN STERN EDITORIAL LECTURE JANUARY 14 ON ITS RELATION WITH ARABS AND EGYPT. (US CHASTIZED IN PASSING FOR "DENYING ITS ABILITY TO BRING COMPELLING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAEL.") GAMAL CONSIDERS THAT USSR IN POSITION TO INFLUENCE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION POSITIVELY BUT, DESPITE HARMONY OF ITS STAND WITH THAT OF ARABS, "CONTENTS ITSELF WITH WORDS AND SHUNS PRACTICAL STEPS WHICH WOULD HAVE TURNED WORDS INTO CONCRETE REALITIES." (COMMENT: I.E. USSR DECLINES PROVIDE DETAILED "VISUALIZATION" OF ME SETTLEMENT)

2. GAMAL ALSO ACCUSES SOVIETS OF "STEPS LIKELY TO BLOCK WAY TO GENEVA," CITING SOVIET REFUSAL TO PAY ITS SHARE OF UNEF COSTS AS EXAMPLE "WHICH WILL JEOPARDIZE (POSSIBILITY) OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES NECESSARY TO REASSURE TWO SIDES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE."
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3. WITH REGARD TO EGYPT, SOVIETS HAVE NOT REALIZED THAT "EGYPT HAS PLACED ITS OWN WILL ABOVE ALL ELSE" AND WILL NOT BE DICTATED TO BY ANY COUNTRY. USSR, HOWEVER, HAS "RESORTED TO SEVERAL ARM-TWISTING PRACTICES AGAINST EGYPT", NAMELY REFUSAL TO "FREEZE" OR RESCHEDULE DEBT AND WITHHOLDING OF ARMS AND SPARE PARTS, "FORCING OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT." SOVIET HAS USED ME SITUATION

"AS ELEMENT OF PRESSURE AGAINST ARABS" FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES.

4. IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, ""AND OUR DISPLEASURE OVER SOVIET UNION'S WAY OF DEALING WITH US, GAMAL COMMENTS, NEITHER COUNTRY WOULD WISH TO SEE NEGATIVE IN ITS RELATIONS OUTWEIGH THE POSITIVE. SOVIETS SHOULD SEE EGYPTIAN CRITICISM AS AN EFFORT TO REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES TO FRIENDSHIP AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SADAT'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EGYPT INSISTS THAT ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE ITS OWN CONCERN. "SOVIET UNION WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO FIND OUT WHY ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT HAVE FALTERED" AND HASTEN TO PUT RELATIONS BACK ON PROPER TRACK. SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE EGYPTIAN NOTE OF APRIL, 1975, "POINTING OUT IMPEDIMENTS TO NORMAL RELATIONS AND MEANS CONDUCIVE TO THEIR REMOVAL." WHICH WOULD BE FOR BENEFIT OF BOTH.

5. COMMENT: GOE HAS NOW ADDED SOVIET FAILURE ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT SADAT'S GENEVA ORIENTED PEACE OFFENSIVE TO ITS FAMILIAR COMPLAINTS ON DEBT AND ARMS. THIS HARSH CRITICISM, WHICH FURTHER CHILLS ATMOSPHEREFOR UPCOMING TRADE TALKS (SEPTTEL) IS REFLECTION OF SADAT'S PASSIONATE VIEWS ON USSR AND HIS REFUSAL TO COMPREHEND THAT MOSCOW UNLIKELY TO BE BROWBEATEN AND BLUFFED INTO ACCEPTING HIS TERMS AS BASIS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS.
MATTHEWS

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